

Summary of Friday Sermon delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad – Khalifatul Masih IV. On 5th April 1996

Hast thou seen him who makes his own desire his lord and whom Allah has adjudged astray on the basis of knowledge and whose ears and whose heart He has sealed up and on whose eyes He has put a covering? Who then will guide him after Allah's condemnation? Will you not then take heed?

And they assert 'There is nothing but this our present life we die and we live and nothing but Time destroys us.' But they have no knowledge of that other than their own conjecture.

The Holy Quran. al-Jathiya [The Curtsy]: 24, 25.

In continuation of the subject of the previous Friday sermons in which I had said with reference to the verse of Sura al-Nur that the case of the actions of disbelievers and those occupied in the worldly life is like that of a mirage in that they remain thirsting after something that can never be quenched. The more one follows the desires of the world the more the demand increases and death comes to such in a state that their thirst is unquenched but the Divine Destiny is ready to offer them the account of their acts.

Fashion is not a harmful thing in itself and in fact it pleases Almighty God but the fashion that is forbidden is when it turns into an obsession or a cause of bashful pride or is adopted in order to show off among people. Similarly desiring wealth and children is not forbidden in itself but another verse of *The Holy Quran* sheds light upon when these things become forbidden and mentions that when one becomes a slave to one's wishes and desires and when one's carnal desires are turned into idols then the same things become harmful.

Games and pastimes include all types of Social Pursuits and interests which not only concern one's livelihood but relate to drowning one's life in such [pursuits]. Similarly it includes all types of fashion and luxuries of the Cosmetic Industry. Mutual 'rivalry in multiplying riches and children'¹ also includes political domination. One who idolises one's desires can never derive proper benefit from their heart, ears and eyes and all 3 of these means of knowledge are closed to them and such a person indulges in evil pursuits.

It is an arduous task to summon a world overtaken by the darkness of materialism towards the One God. Its solution lies only in prayer. I advise such mothers and fathers who have lost hope in training their children to make use of prayer. If such people would be guided it would only be by the hand of God. Indeed the grand spiritual revolution that took place in Arabia through the Holy Prophet was also a miracle wrought by the prayers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

According to the Quranic verses the heart, ears and eyes are 3 means of [receiving] light. If even one of these is lacking the light [received] would be that much lesser. One should

¹ Know that the life of this world is only a game and a diversion and pomposity and a subject of boasting among yourselves, of rivalry in multiplying riches and children. Like the vegetation that sprouts up after the rain rejoicing the tillers. Then it dries up and thou seest it turning yellow; becoming broken pieces of stubble. And in the hereafter there is severe chastisement, as well as forgiveness and Allah's pleasure. And the life of this world is nothing but illusory pleasure.

The Holy Quran. al-Hadid [Iron]: 21.

especially pray for those who are occupied in materialism and in the evils of games and pastimes, fashions and boasting and mutual rivalries in increasing wealth and children and see whether these 3 paths of light are closed upon them or whether any of the paths still remain open. Pray for such people that 'My Lord how dost Thou give life to the dead?'² Almighty God has shown these miracles before by bringing back to life those for whom there is no hope left that they would ever live again.

I especially draw your attention to preaching in the west because through the blessing of prayer the dead were brought back to life before and will again now be [brought back to life]. If God can raise those who had been dead for a hundred years among the Children of Israel, if He can bring back those Arabs who had been spiritually dead for dozens of years then if you will learn from the ways in which the Holy Prophet ﷺ prayed and pray for the dead of today you will observe that they too will start seeing and hearing. But you will first have to turn your days around, remove the coverings from your eyes and remove the plugs from your ears that block your hearing and wash the dirt from your hearts that besmirch your faculty to consider and comprehend things.

In this relation I will give some examples experienced in everyday life in the following sermons and show the bad that is gaining way which is important to avoid.

When games and pastimes, fashions and boasting and desire to increase one's wealth and children become idols they are the darkness that covers all 3 of these faculties. So pray for those who you wish to bring to life and go forward in the field of summoning to Allah with reliance upon prayers. Take care of your young children as well. Pray for the people of Muhammad and also look into yourselves. May Allah the Almighty protect us from all kinds of darkness.

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² And when Abraham said 'My Lord how dost Thou give life to the dead?' He said 'Hast thou not believed then?' He replied 'Indeed but just so that my heart may be at rest.' He answered 'Take 4 birds and endear them to thyself then put each of them on a hillock then call them and they will come to thee in haste. And know that Allah is the Mighty the Wise'.